

Message Text

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AMCONSUL ZANZIBAR VIA POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAR ES SALAAM 0342

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, TZ, US, OVIP (YOUNG, ANDREW)

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S VISIT TO AFRICA: BRIEFING PAPER:
ZANZIBAR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION

1. THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA INCLUDES THE HIGHLY
AUTONOMOUS ISLAND OF ZANZIBAR (AND PEMBA). THIS PAPER
WAS PREPARED BY THE AMERICAN CONSULATE, ZANZIBAR.

2. ZANZIBAR AND THE MAINLAND TERRITORY FORMERLY KNOWN AS
TANGANYIKA FORMED IN 1964 THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA.
THE DEGREE OF UNION, HOWEVER, IS MINIMAL. ZANZIBAR MAINTAINS
CONTROL OVER ALL ITS AFFAIRS EXCEPT FOREIGN AND MILITARY, WHICH
ARE "UNION" RESPONSIBILITIES, BUT THERE ARE OCCASIONALLY
SIGNIFICANT LAPSES OF COOPERATION EVEN IN THESE AREAS.

3. ZANZIBAR PROFESSES ADHERENCE TO ROUGHLY THE SAME SET OF
SOCIALIST PRINCIPALS ESTABLISHED FOR MAINLAND TANZANIA.
BUT WHILE THEIR ECONOMIES ARE SUPERFICIALLY SIMILAR, WITH
BOTH GOVERNMENTS PUBLICLY STRESSING SELF-RELIANCE AND
STATE-CONTROLLED ENTERPRISE, ZANZIBAR HAS SO FAR SHOWN
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NO INTEREST IN ESTABLISHING A SOCIALIST SYSTEM TO THE SAME
EXTENT AS THE MAINLAND. NEARLY ALL AGRICULTURE, WHICH IS
THE MAINSTAY OF THE ECONOMY, IS UNDERTAKEN PRIVATELY; THERE
IS NO PARALLEL TO THE MAINLAND'S "UJAMAA" PROGRAM OF
COLLECTIVIZATION.

4. ZANZIBAR'S ECONOMY ESPECIALLY TURNS ON CLOVES, WHICH

ANNUALLY PROVIDE AN INCOME OF ABOUT \$50 MILLION, OR ABOUT 80 PER CENT OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES, WHICH, AT A PRESENT LEVEL OF ABOUT \$65 MILLION, HAVE ENABLED ZANZIBAR TO MAINTAIN ITS SEMI-INDEPENDENT STATUS. NEARLY HALF OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE EXPENDISURES ARE FOR FOOD IMPORTS. STAPLES SUCH AS RICE, FLOUR AND SUGAR HAVE BEEN RATIONED FOR SEVERAL YEARS AND OTHER IMPORTED COMMODITIES ARE IN SHORT SUPPLY. THE REGIME HAS A WELL-ESTABLISHED RECORD OF PURCHASING UNNECESSARY ITEMS - COLOR TELEVISION, AMUSEMENT PARKS, AND A PASSENGER SHIP.

5. ZANZIBAR HAS COMMITTED SOME OF ITS OWN FUNDS TO DEVELOPMENT, ESPECIALLY IN AGRICULTURE, BUT HAS BEEN HAMPERED BY POOR MANAGEMENT AND LACK OF SKILLED MANPOWER RESOURCES. A SMALL AMOUNT OF FOREIGN TECHNIAL AND CAPITAL ASSISTANCE IS PROVIDED. THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA HAS BEEN BY FAR THE MAJOR AID DONOR, WITH CHINESE SOFT LOANS ACCOUNTING FOR MOST OF ZANZIBAR'S LIGHT INDUSTRY. ABOUT 200 CHINESE ARE CURRENTLY ACTIVE IN MILITARY TRAINING, MEDICINE, LIGHT INDUSTRY, AND SUGAR PRODUCTION.

6. THE REGIME IS DOMINATED BY ABOUD JUMBE. HE AND ALL OTHER POLITICAL FIGURES ARE APPOINTED; ZANZIBAR HAS HAD NO ELECTIONS IN YEARS AND NONE ARE FORESEEABLE.

7. ZANZIBAR KEEPS A DISTANCE FROM MAINLAND TANZANIA. FEARS OF LOSING ITS FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES AND ITS SEPARATE IDENTITY ARE REAL, AS ARE CONCERNS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE MUSLIM FAITH (ABOUT 98 PER CENT OF ZANZIBARIS ARE MUSLINS) UNDER THE CONFIDENTIAL

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MAINLAND'S STYLE OF SOCIALISM. LATELY THE RELATIONSHIP HAS BEEN STRAINED BY COMPETITION FOR FOREIGN AID AND THE MERGER OF ZANZIBAR'S AFRO-SHIRAZI PARTY AND THE MAINLAND'S TANGANYIKA AFRICAN NATIONAL UNION. THERE IS NO MEASURABLE INTEREST IN ZANZIBAR FOR A CLOSER ASSOCIATION WITH THE MAINLAND.

8. IN THE LAST FEW YEARS ZANZIBAR HAS BEEN MORE OPEN TO CONTACTS WITH THE NON-COMMUNIST WORLD. THERE IS AN APPARENT AFFINITY WITH INDIA, WHICH IS NOW COMPETING WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA FOR PRE-EMINENCE. INDIA, EGYPT, EAST GERMANY, THE USSR, AND CHINA HAVE CONSULATES IN ZANZIBAR. SPAIN

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